

## Summary

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## Labour Market Summary

An overview of key labour market indicators: changes and time series graphs.

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How to find the data for discontinued tables from *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0).

## Labour Market Summary

## SUMMARY COMMENTARY

## APRIL 2011

Summary of Australia's key labour market indicators.

## Key Measures

	Period	Current figure	% Change from	
			Previous qtr(a)	Previous year(b)
<b>Trend</b>				
<b>Employed</b>				
Persons ('000)	Feb 11	11 433.7	0.4	2.9
Full-time ('000)	Feb 11	8 055.0	0.5	3.6
Part-time ('000)	Feb 11	3 378.7	0.0	1.3
Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment (%)	Feb 11	29.6	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.5
<b>Employment to population ratio</b>				
Persons (%)	Feb 11	62.5	(c)0.1	(c)0.7
Males (%)	Feb 11	69.3	(c)0.1	(c)0.9
Females (%)	Feb 11	55.9	(c)0.0	(c)0.5
<b>Unemployed</b>				
Persons ('000)	Feb 11	604.1	-2.3	-3.8
Looking for full-time work ('000)	Feb 11	424.3	-2.2	-6.7
Looking for part-time work ('000)	Feb 11	179.8	-2.5	3.7
Unemployment rate - persons (%)	Feb 11	5.0	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.3
<b>Long-term unemployment</b>				
Persons ('000)	Feb 11	113.9	-4.2	2.3
As a proportion of total unemployment (%)	Feb 11	18.9	(c)-0.4	(c)1.1
Long-term unemployment rate (%)	Feb 11	0.9	(c)0.0	(c)0.0
<b>Labour underutilisation rates</b>				
Underemployment rate (%)	Feb 11	7.0	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.4
Labour force underutilisation rate (%)	Feb 11	12.1	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.8
<b>Labour force participation rate</b>				
Persons (%)	Feb 11	65.8	(c)0.0	(c)0.5
Persons aged 15-64 years (%)	Feb 11	76.9	(c)0.0	(c)0.6
<b>Aggregate monthly hours worked</b>				
Persons (mill. hours)	Feb 11	1 599.8	0.1	2.6
<b>Wage price index</b>				
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses (index)	Dec 10	106.5	0.9	3.8
<b>Average weekly earnings</b>				
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (\$)	Nov 10	1 272.5	0.8	3.9
All employees total earnings (\$)	Nov 10	992.5	0.8	3.9

Job vacancies - Australia ('000)	Feb 11	195.0	3.6	20.8
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#### Original

Average actual weekly hours worked				
Persons (hours)	Feb 11	34.2	1.0	-0.4
Full-time (hours)	Feb 11	41.2	0.6	-1.0
Part-time (hours)	Feb 11	17.0	1.3	-0.6
Proportion of part-time workers who preferred to work more hours (%)	Feb 11	25.8	(c)0.3	(c)-1.7
Industrial disputes				
Working days lost ('000)	Dec qtr 10	27.2	-41.6	-39.1
Working days lost per 1,000 employees (no.)	Dec qtr 10	2.7	-43.0	-42.0
Labour force status of families				
Children living without an employed parent (%) (d)	Jun 10	13.9	na	(c)-1.1

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

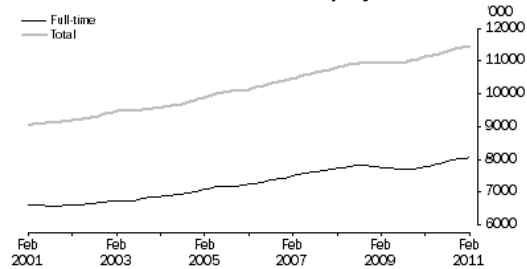
(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years.

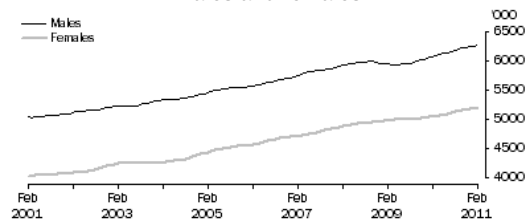
## EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

### Full-time and total employment



Sources: Labour Force Survey.

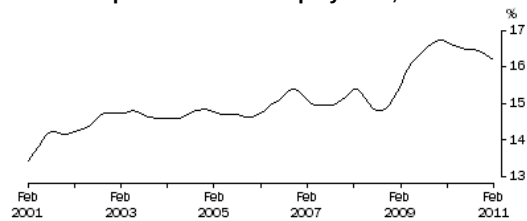
### Males and females



Sources: Labour Force Survey.

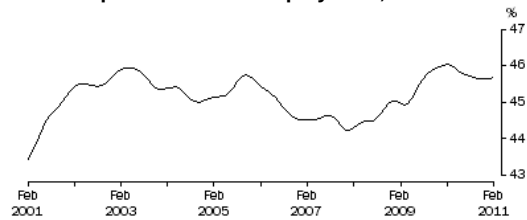
## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

### Proportion of total employment, Males



Sources: Labour Force Survey.

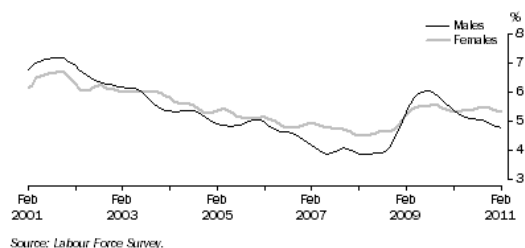
### Proportion of total employment, Females



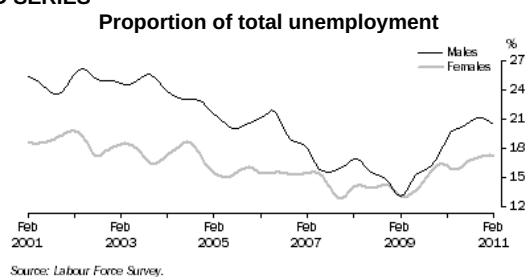
Sources: Labour Force Survey.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

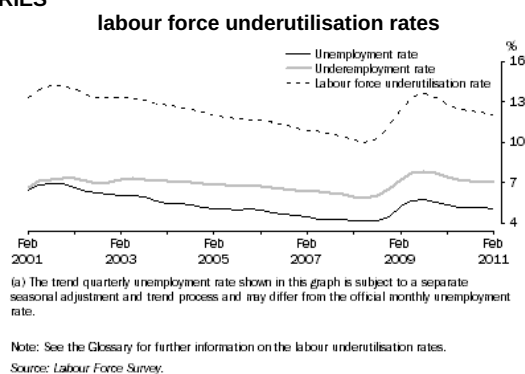
### Males and females



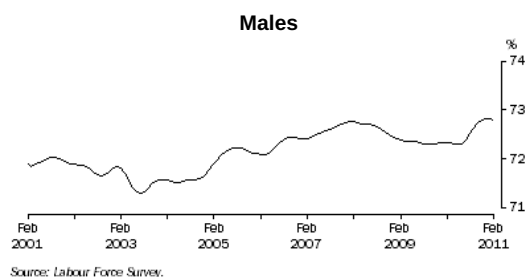
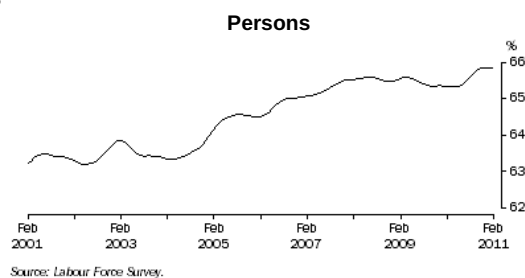
## LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES



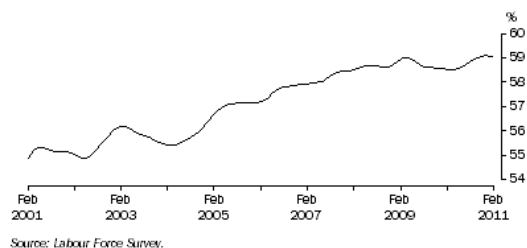
## UNDERUTILISED LABOUR: TREND SERIES



## PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES

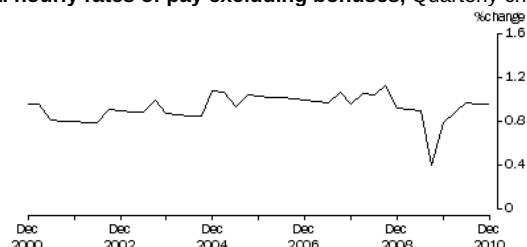


## Females



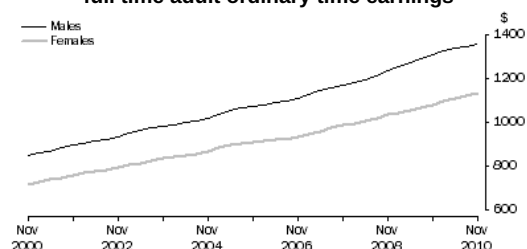
## WAGE PRICE INDEX: TREND SERIES

total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Quarterly change



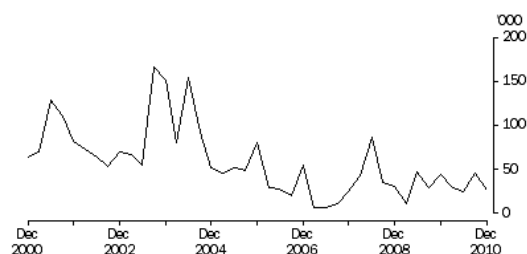
## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES

full time adult ordinary time earnings



## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES

Working days lost, Quarter Ending



## About this Release

This publication provides information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program, highlighting new and upcoming releases of ABS labour data or changes to these series.

It presents a broad level summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

The electronic product takes advantage of website capabilities and differs marginally from the printed version.

## Expanded Contents

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Labour Household Survey Program Review  
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Supplementary Surveys on Labour Topics  
Labour-related Business Surveys  
Changes to Australian Labour Market Statistics  
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## What's New

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### WHAT'S NEW?

Welcome to the latest edition of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0), a publication designed to help you stay informed about key labour market measures and the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program. Each edition contains a summary of key labour market measures with both the latest key figures and a range of time series graphs.

For some of you this may be the first look at our redesigned Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0). You can find details on what has changed and why in [Changes in Australian Labour Market Statistics](#).

### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

This edition highlights some recent developments, and current reviews of the Labour Force Survey and the labour household survey program, including:

- Review of the labour household survey program;
- Review of the labour force survey outputs;
- Review of Topics @ a glance - Labour;
- The ABS Labour Statistics Advisory Meeting; and
- Recent ABS statistical releases

See the [Recent Developments](#), [Current Activities](#) and [Find Out More](#) pages for more details on these developments.

Our feature article focuses on aggregate monthly hours worked by States and Territories. This is a new series which was introduced in Labour Force, Australia, November 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0). The article compares the growth in aggregate monthly hours worked of each state and territory over the past 32 years. How have aggregate hours worked for each state and territory changed over time? What happened during the recent economic downturn?

Our thoughts are particularly with those who have been affected by natural disasters this year. For a labour market statistics perspective [Impacts of Natural Disaster on the Labour Force Survey](#) provides a number of links to help direct you to the most up to date details on the impacts of the Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi on the Labour Force Survey and other ABS collections.

In February, the ABS launched the "ABS Presents..." video series. The series explains statistical concepts and methods, as well as showcasing new products. In the first series are two videos relating to labour statistics:

- "More Than Just Unemployed"; and
- "Are Young People Earning or Learning?"

### FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

If you have any questions about aspects of the labour statistics program, you can contact us on (02) 6252 7206 or email [labour.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:labour.statistics@abs.gov.au).

The [Find out more](#) page contains further information and contact details.

# Labour Market Summary

Contents >> Labour Market Summary

## LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY

APRIL 2011

Summary of Australia's key labour market indicators.

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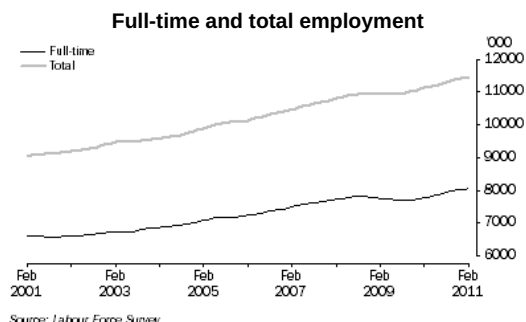
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(b) Same period previous year.

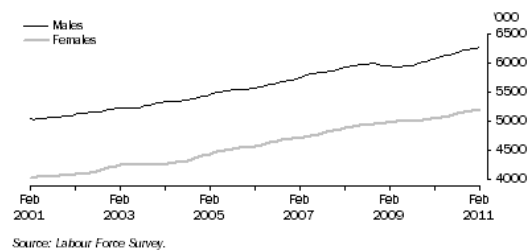
(c) Change is in percentage points.

(d) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years.

## EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

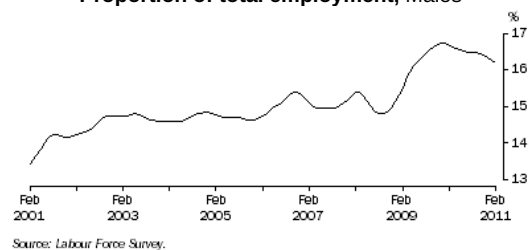


## Males and females

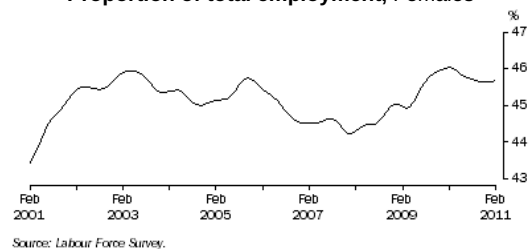


## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

### Proportion of total employment, Males

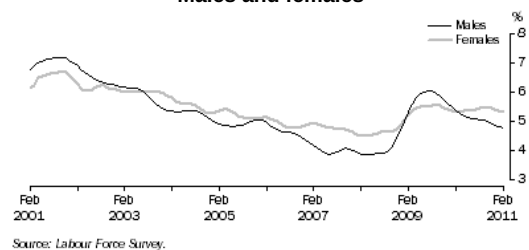


### Proportion of total employment, Females



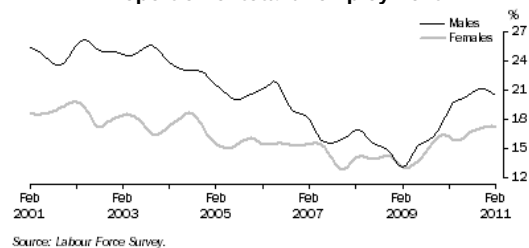
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

### Males and females



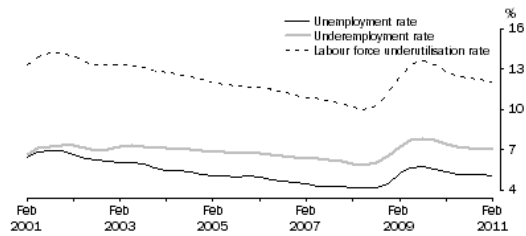
## LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

### Proportion of total unemployment



## UNDERUTILISED LABOUR: TREND SERIES

### labour force underutilisation rates

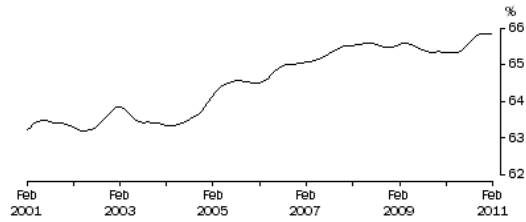


(a) The trend quarterly unemployment rate shown in this graph is subject to a separate seasonal adjustment and trend process and may differ from the official monthly unemployment rate.

Note: See the Glossary for further information on the labour underutilisation rates.  
Sources: Labour Force Survey.

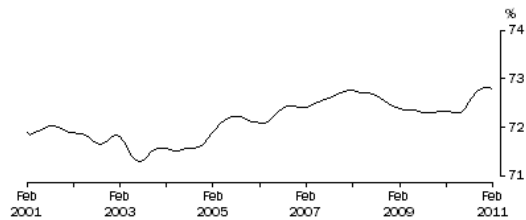
## PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES

### Persons



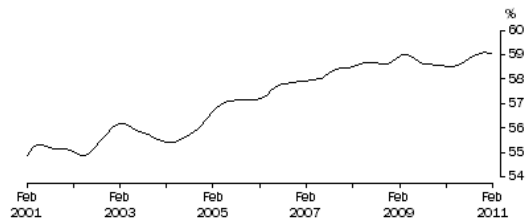
Sources: Labour Force Survey.

### Males



Sources: Labour Force Survey.

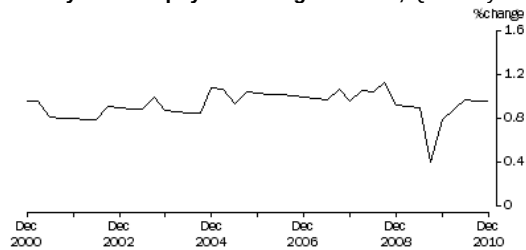
### Females



Sources: Labour Force Survey.

## WAGE PRICE INDEX: TREND SERIES

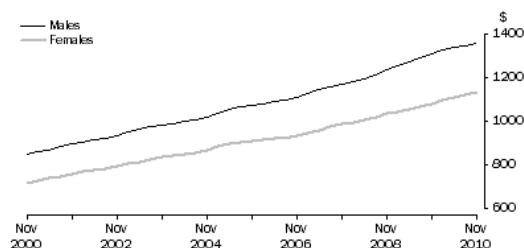
total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses, Quarterly change



## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS: TREND SERIES

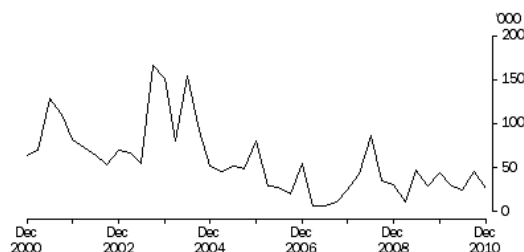
full time adult ordinary time earnings





## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: ORIGINAL SERIES

Working days lost, Quarter Ending



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## Current Activities

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### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is undertaking a number of reviews, developments and analytical projects to improve the relevance and reliability of labour market statistics and promote the effective use of these statistics. Current Activities provides an overview of this work including contacts for further information.

This section contains the following subsection :

- [Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour](#)
- [Labour Household Survey Program Review](#)
- [Review of labour force survey output](#)

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## Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour

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### REVIEW OF TOPICS @ A GLANCE - LABOUR

In mid 2011, a number of changes are planned for the Topics @ a Glance - Labour pages on the ABS website. These pages provide a guide to the full range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data releases. The revised Topics @ a Glance page will organise labour statistics topics thematically, assisting users in quickly and easily finding the information and data they require. To find Topics @ a Glance, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Topics @ a Glance > People > Labour].

If you would like further information about the upcoming changes to Topics @ a Glance - Labour please contact Joanne Baker on (02) 6252 7059 or email [joanne.baker@abs.gov.au](mailto:joanne.baker@abs.gov.au).

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## Labour Household Survey Program Review

## REVIEW OF THE LABOUR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY PROGRAM

### BACKGROUND

It has been many years since a holistic review of the labour household survey program has been undertaken. Over recent years there have been many changes to the structure of the labour market and the nature of work. Many of the labour surveys have origins in the late 1970s and 1980s, and as a result they may, to some extent, reflect an outdated view of work and the labour market, and the interest therein.

Ad hoc and survey-specific reviews have been conducted from time to time to maintain the relevance of the program, but it is timely for a holistic review to be undertaken to ensure ABS labour statistics continue to deliver high quality, coherent, conceptually robust and relevant statistics into the future.

This review has recently commenced and is considering a range of issues around relevance, coherence and relative priority of topics and data items. An important element of the review will be seeking feedback from a range of users.

### CURRENT LABOUR HOUSEHOLD SURVEY PROGRAM

The labour household survey program comprises the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), as well as a number of labour-related supplementary survey and Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) topics which are run in conjunction with the LFS.

The LFS provides key indicators of the labour market, including: monthly estimates relating to employment, unemployment, participation, hours worked, and labour force transitions (gross flows); and quarterly estimates relating to underemployment and underutilisation, industry and occupation.

Data are released monthly in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), with more detailed monthly data released in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and detailed quarterly data released in Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

The labour supplementary survey and labour MPHS topics aim to provide more detailed information on labour market issues and/or population groups of interest, to complement and extend on the information collected in the LFS on a monthly and quarterly basis.

The following labour topics are currently included within the labour supplementary surveys program:

- Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (cat. no. 6310.0) - annual, August
- Forms of Employment (cat. no. 6359.0) - annual, November
- Working Time Arrangements (cat. no. 6342.0) - three-yearly, November
- Locations of Work (cat. no. 6275.0) - six-yearly, November
- Underemployed Workers (cat. no. 6265.0) - annual, September
- Persons Not in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6220.0) - annual, September
- Labour Mobility (cat. no. 6209.0) - two-yearly, February
- Labour Force Experience (cat. no. 6206.0) - two-yearly, February
- Job Search Experience (cat. no. 6222.0) - annual, July

The following labour topics are included within the labour MPHS program (collected on a financial year basis):

- Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation (cat. no. 6239.0) - two-yearly
- Retirement and Retirements Intentions (cat. no. 6238.0) - two-yearly
- Work-Related Injuries (cat. no. 6342.0) - four-yearly

There are other sub-topics which are included within the topics identified above (e.g. detailed benefits module collected six-yearly within the Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership survey; Labour Hire module collected three-yearly within the Forms of Employment Survey). There are other also other supplementary survey and MPHS topics that contain some labour-related data, such as the Survey of Education and Work, however these are not included within the scope of this review.

### THE REVIEW

- This review aims to make improvements to the labour household survey program to ensure:
- labour program content, and frequency, is based on key priorities and requirements;
- the data are more integrated and coherent, to ensure interrelated data are collected together;
- the conceptual underpinnings are robust and coherent, and reflect contemporary interest in labour market issues; and
- duplication of content is minimised.

This review is primarily focussed on the content of the labour supplementary survey and multi-purpose household survey topics, including the interrelationships between the topics, and between each of the topics and the LFS, and their timing and frequency.

However, the mix of content between these surveys and information collected in the core monthly and quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS), as well as the extent to which the current LFS contains the key contemporary labour market indicators, will also be considered. This is to ensure that any directions on future content be considered in a holistic way - as a labour household survey information set - rather than being constrained on the basis of the existing content of current surveys.

### FEEDBACK

Comments or suggestions from users on any aspects of the content of the labour household survey program are welcomed.

In particular, there are a number of key issues and questions relevant to this review, for which feedback from users would be useful, including:

- what are the priorities for the labour supplementary survey and MPHS topics (e.g. what are the most/least important topics)?
- what are the most important elements within those topics, and at what frequency are they required?
- whether there are key data items that need to be collected more frequently (e.g. underemployment)?

- what are the key linkages (existing and missing) (e.g. earnings and education, earnings and working arrangements, job search and job mobility, unemployment and underemployment)?
- are there any key data gaps, across LFS and/or the labour supplementary survey and MPHS topics?
- how important is the current timing of the collection of labour supplementary survey topics (e.g. Job Search Experience in July, Labour Mobility in February, etc.)?

Once the review is complete, information will be provided about any changes to the labour household survey program and the timing for implementation of these changes.

Submissions to the review can be emailed to <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>. For more information on the review, please contact Michael Gerrity on (02) 6252 5514 or email <m.gerrity@abs.gov.au>.

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## Review of labour force survey output

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### REVIEW OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY OUTPUT

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been conducted monthly since February 1978, when it was introduced as the official source of labour market and unemployment data. The LFS is primarily designed to provide reliable estimates of the key labour force aggregates for the whole of Australia, and secondarily, for each state and territory.

The ABS will be reviewing the purpose and relevance of the current LFS product set in the upcoming LFS output review. The LFS products being considered in this review include:

- Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0); publication, time series spreadsheets and data cube released monthly;
- Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001); spreadsheets and data cubes released monthly;
- Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003); spreadsheets and data cubes released quarterly.

As part of the review process, the ABS will be seeking feedback from a range of users. This is planned to occur in April and May 2011. When the review has been finalised, information will be provided to users about any upcoming changes to the LFS product set.

For more information about the review please contact Catherine Thomas on (02) 6252 7879 or email <catherine.thomas@abs.gov.au>.

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## Recent Developments

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### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING LABOUR STATISTICS

Within Recent Developments are details of some of the latest analysis undertaken and the release of new statistical products by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These projects improve the range of labour market statistics available and assist users in the effective use of these statistics.

This section contains the following subsection :

- Impact of natural disasters on the Labour Force Survey
- Supplementary Surveys on Labour Topics
- Labour-related Business Surveys
- Changes to Australian Labour Market Statistics
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## Impact of natural disasters on the Labour Force Survey

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### IMPACTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS ON THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Due to flooding in Queensland, a larger than usual number of households in the Queensland sample of the Labour Force Survey could not be interviewed in the fortnight commencing 9 January 2011. In February 2011, although a small number of households from the sample were not able to be enumerated due to either flood or cyclone damage to the dwelling, or road closures preventing access to the dwelling, there were no significant operational difficulties experienced in conducting the Labour Force Survey.

For further information refer to the article "Impact of the Floods on the Labour Force Survey" in Labour Force, Australia January 2011 (cat.

no. 6202.0) or contact Labour Force Estimates on Canberra 02 6252 6525 or via email <labourforce@abs.gov.au>.

To alert users to the effects of the Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi on ABS data, the ABS made available the media release Impact of the floods on ABS data: an update (8 February 2011). This provided further details to the 21 January 2011 media release: Impact of floods on ABS data. ABS media releases are available by following the links [News & Media - ABS in the Media - Media Releases] from the ABS home page.

Where ABS data has been affected by the floods, publications will include extra commentary describing the impact of the flood/cyclone on the published data.

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## Supplementary Surveys on Labour Topics

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### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS ON LABOUR TOPICS

The Monthly Population Survey comprises the Labour Force Survey and a range of supplementary surveys, which provide detailed information on a range of topics. Results from supplementary surveys on labour-related topics recently released comprise of: Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0), Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0) and Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0)

#### RELEASE OF JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY

In January 2011, the ABS released Job Search Experience, Australia, July 2010 (cat. no. 6222.0). This publication contains estimates of unemployed persons classified by difficulties in finding work, duration of current period of unemployment, active steps taken to find work, whether looking for full-time or part-time work, educational attainment, and number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months. Estimates can also be cross-classified by demographic information such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth. This publication also provides estimates of employed persons who were formerly jobseekers but are now (as at the survey reference period) employed and were successful in securing that job in the previous 12 months.

#### RELEASE OF PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

In March 2011, the ABS released Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 2010 (cat. no. 6220.0). Statistics in this publication include a range of information collected about people not in the labour force (i.e. persons who are neither employed nor unemployed in a particular reference period), including why they were not actively looking for work or were not available for work; their main activity while not in the labour force; whether they have worked previously and if so, time since their last job; occupation in their last job; and the reasons for ceasing their last job. Persons Not in the Labour Force includes information on discouraged job seekers and other people with marginal attachment to the labour force.

#### RELEASE OF UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS SURVEY

In March 2011, the ABS released Underemployed Workers, Australia, September 2010 (cat. no. 6265.0). This publication provides information about people who are underemployed. Information includes whether they were looking for work with more hours, their availability to start work with more hours, and their experience in looking for work with more hours. The number of underemployed workers are an important component of underutilised labour resources in the economy.

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## Labour-related Business Surveys

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### LABOUR-RELATED BUSINESS SURVEYS

Business surveys are the primary source of data on earnings, jobs and job vacancies, all of which provide insight into the demand for labour in the Australian labour market. The recent release comprise of: Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (cat. no. 6306.0).

#### RELEASE OF EMPLOYEE EARNINGS AND HOURS SURVEY

In January 2011, the ABS released Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 2010 (cat. no. 6306.0). This publication contains statistics on the composition and distribution of earnings of employees and the hours they are paid for, and whether their pay is set by award, collective agreement or individual arrangement

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## Changes to Australian Labour Market Statistics

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### CHANGES TO AUSTRALIAN LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS

In January 2011 there were a number of changes to the content of this publication, Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0), including the discontinuation of a number of tables and a new look for the publication. From July 2011 there will be an additional change with

the discontinuation of the PDF version. All information from the PDF version will continue to be available as a HTML product.

If you would like further information or would like to comment on these changes please contact Joanne Baker on (02) 6252 7059 or email <[joanne.baker@abs.gov.au](mailto:joanne.baker@abs.gov.au)>

#### **Are the discontinued tables still accessible?:**

From January 2011 issue, a number of tables were removed from the publication Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0). The earlier editions of this publication contained tables which drew together a range of labour statistics from a number of ABS sources and some international comparisons from the International Labour Organisation. These tables reproduced information that is freely available from the original sources. This publication no longer contains detailed tables that can be found in other publications.

[Labour Statistics Data Sources](#) contains more information on how to access ABS labour market statistics, and links to original sources for the discontinued tables from Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).

Some information provided in earlier editions was unique to this publication and is still available. The datacubes:

- Extended labour force underutilisation rate;
- Volume measures of labour underutilisation; and
- Employment type time series

will continue to be released annually.

In addition, four datacubes are published each quarter containing information on:

- All families: family type by labour force status;
- Employed persons: actual hours worked in all jobs;
- Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by industry and occupation of last job; and
- Underemployed: industry and occupation.

Each of these datacubes is available free of charge from the ABS website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> under the Downloads tab for this publication.

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## **Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events**

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### **Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events**

Staff from the ABS Labour Statistics Program have recently been involved in a number of conferences, workshops and events, including:

- ABS Labour Statistics Advisory Group
- Introduction to Labour Statistics training

#### **ABS Labour Statistics Advisory Group. Canberra, 23 March 2011**

On 23 March 2011, the ABS met with the Labour Statistics Advisory Group. Advisory Groups are important to the Bureau as a means of getting feedback from the expert and user community on current and planned developments in the ABS. By drawing on the advice, comments and concerns of the Advisory Group members, the ABS will improve the relevance and usefulness of the labour statistics program.

The meeting provided a forum for key users and other people with expertise in the field of labour statistics:

- to provide advice to the ABS on its program of labour statistics,
- to discuss developmental work being undertaken by the ABS on labour statistics, and
- to bring major user concerns on labour statistics to the attention of the ABS.

The majority of topics discussed by the Advisory Group have previously been included in the Labour Statistics News and Current Activities sections of this publication, Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) or in the Current Projects section of the (now discontinued) Labour Statistics News (cat. no. 6106.0)

#### **Introduction to Labour Statistics training**

The ABS has recently conducted the Introduction to Labour Statistics in Perth (24 February 2011). The course is designed for anyone who uses or needs to understand ABS Labour Statistics. The course provides an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of products available to access labour-related data.

Courses are currently scheduled for delivery in 2011 for most State / Territory capital cities. For more details about this and other statistical training, or to register interest in a course, please refer to the ABS Training page or contact Kathy Buck on (02) 6252 5981 or email <[labour.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:labour.statistics@abs.gov.au)>

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Australian Social Trends	(a) March 2010	4102.0
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Job Vacancies, Australia	February 2011	6354.0
Labour Force, Australia	February 2011	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	February 2011	6291.0.55.001
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Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	September 2010	6220.0
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(a) Refers to the issue of the publication, not the reference period.

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This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Australian Labour Market Statistics, promoting the effective use of labour market statistics. Articles are sorted by topic.

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## Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories

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# Feature Article: Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories

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## AGGREGATE MONTHLY HOURS WORKED: STATES AND TERRITORIES

### INTRODUCTION

Aggregate monthly hours worked estimates measure the total number of hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. They can be aggregated across time to produce quarterly and annual estimates. Seasonally adjusted and trend measures of hours worked are provided that allow direct comparison of hours worked across time. For more information, see **Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey** (cat. no 6290.0.55.001).

Aggregate monthly hours worked estimates were first released in August 2009, full- and part-time series were released in February 2010 and estimates by broad industry groups were released in March 2010. These series are available as both seasonally adjusted and trend estimates (for the period July 1978 onwards).

From **Labour Force, Australia, Jan 2011** (cat. no. 6202.0) the ABS introduced monthly measures of aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory as seasonally adjusted and trend estimates.

The article "**Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked by State and Territory**", in **Labour Force, Australia, Nov 2010** (cat. no. 6202.0) introduced the new synthetic measures of aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory to complement the existing state and territory information on employment and unemployment. The article detailed the methodology behind the production of the state and territory series, and described the aggregate monthly hours worked by each state and territory in February 2011 as well as changes in the number of hours worked over the past month and the past year.

This article supplements that analysis by comparing the growth in aggregate monthly hours worked of each state and territory over the past 32 years, detailing how the share of Australia's total hours worked by states and territories has changed, and examining the aggregate monthly hours worked by each state and territory during the recent economic downturn.

## AGGREGATE MONTHLY HOURS WORKED: STATES AND TERRITORIES

### Change, and percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked

Table 1 shows the aggregate monthly hours worked in Australia for each state and territory, in July 1978 and February 2011, with the increase and percentage increase in aggregate monthly hours worked over this period.

**Table 1. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories, Trend - July 1978 to February 2011**

	July 1978 ('000)	February 2011 ('000)	Increase ('000)	Increase (%)
New South Wales	321 164.7	503 700.3	182 535.5	56.8
Victoria	248 039.1	402 227.2	154 188.1	62.2
Queensland	134 459.9	328 752.2	194 292.3	144.5
South Australia	82 069.9	112 297.5	30 227.6	36.8
Western Australia	79 340.1	174 275.9	94 935.8	119.7
Tasmania	24 582.5	31 173.2	6 590.7	26.8
Northern Territory	6 941.5	18 766.9	11 825.4	170.4
Australian Capital Territory	13 898.3	28 543.4	14 645.1	105.4

New South Wales contributed the greatest number of aggregate monthly hours worked (321.2 million in July 1978, and 503.7 million in February 2011). The greatest increase in aggregate monthly hours worked occurred in Queensland (an increase of 194.3 million hours, from 134.5 million hours in July 1978 to 328.8 million hours in February 2011).

Aggregate monthly hours worked can be indexed to compare the growth in aggregate monthly hours worked by states and territories over time - measuring the percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked in each state and territory since the reference period (taken to be the start of the series in July 1978).

The Northern Territory had the greatest percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked over this period (170%), followed by Queensland (145%) and Western Australia (120%), while South Australia (37%) and Tasmania (27%) experienced the smallest growth in aggregate monthly hours worked.

### Share of Australia's aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory

The share of aggregate monthly hours worked that each state or territory contributes to Australia's total hours worked can be calculated over time and used to examine whether this has increased or decreased between July 1978 and February 2011.

Table 2 shows the state and territory percentage shares of Australia's aggregate monthly hours worked in July 1978 and February 2011, ranked by the percentage point change over this period.

**Table 2. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories, Trend - July 1978 to February 2011**

	July 1978 (%)	February 2011 (%)	change (%)
Queensland	14.8	20.6	5.8
Western Australia	8.7	10.9	2.2
Northern Territory	0.8	1.2	0.4
Australian Capital Territory	1.5	1.8	0.3
Tasmania	2.7	1.9	-0.8
South Australia	9.0	7.0	-2.0
Victoria	27.2	25.1	-2.1
New South Wales	35.3	31.5	-3.8

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

The percentage share (of the Australian total) of aggregate monthly hours worked by Queensland, Western Australia, and the Territories increased, while that of Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales decreased.

Queensland experienced the greatest percentage point increase (5.8 percentage points from 14.8% in July 1978 to 20.6% in February 2011) and New South Wales the greatest percentage point decrease (3.8 percentage points from 35.3% in July 1978 to 31.5% in February 2011).

Changes in the percentage share of Australia's total aggregate monthly hours worked across the states are strongly correlated with employed persons in those states: Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory recording the strongest increases in both of these measures. Between July 1978 to February 2011, the Northern Territory's total employed persons increased 173% (from 45,200 to 123,400), Queensland's total employed persons increased 167% (from 873,900 to 2,330,000), and Western Australia's total employed persons increased 132% (from 527,400 to 1,220,800).

In terms of the percentage share of the Australian total, only two states changed their ranking over this period, with Western Australia having a greater percentage share than South Australia from the early-1980s. South Australia began with a 9.0% share of the Australian total in 1978, which decreased to 7.0% in February 2011, while Western Australia's share grew from 8.7% to 10.9% over this period.

### THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

The recent economic downturn resulted in an increased focus on Australia's labour market and in particular on changes in unemployment, employment and the relationship to hours worked. Economic downturns are characterised by an overall decrease in aggregate monthly hours worked but the experiences of individual states and territories during the periods of slowdown and recovery can be quite different. The relative resilience of each state and territory to the most recent (2008-09) economic downturn is analysed below.

#### During the recent economic downturn

The states and territories were affected by the global financial crisis, showing a decrease in aggregate monthly hours worked during the time period between approximately mid-2008 and mid-2009. Examining the period of negative growth in aggregate monthly hours worked can provide one measure of the duration of the economic downturn.

Table 3 shows the months, for each state, when negative month-on-month growth in aggregate monthly hours worked began, when it ended, and how long it lasted (duration in months).

In the territories, the growth movements were more complicated, with alternating periods of positive and negative month-on-month growth in aggregate monthly hours worked. Sample size in the territories is small and leads to higher volatility, therefore drawing conclusions around small and short periods of growth should be carried out with caution.

**Table 3. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States, Negative Growth, Trend - July 2008 to February 2011**

	start of period of negative growth	end of period of negative growth	duration (months)
New South Wales	June 2008	August 2009	15
Victoria	September 2008	April 2009	8
Queensland	October 2008	June 2009	9
South Australia	September 2008	August 2009	12

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Victoria experienced negative month-on-month growth for just eight months (from September 2008 until April 2009), while in Western Australia the duration was 13 months (from October 2008 to October 2009).

### Since the recent economic downturn

Labour market indicators such as employment, unemployment, participation and underemployment provide evidence of Australia's recovery from the global financial crisis. The increase in aggregate monthly hours worked in Australia since mid- to late-2009 supports this recovery, however, individual states and territories show different rates of growth.

Table 4 shows, for each state and territory, the low-point of aggregate monthly hours worked and when this occurred, as well as how this has increased in the period to February 2011 (measured by changes in the number, percentage and average monthly percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked since the low-point).

**Table 4. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Northern Territory, Trend - July 2008 to February 2011**

	low point since July 2008	month in which this occurred	in February 2011	increase since low point	increase since low point (%)	number of months since low point	average monthly growth rate since low point (%)
New South Wales	485 296.7	Aug 09	503 700.3	18 403.5	3.8	18	0.21
Victoria	370 358.8	Apr 09	402 227.2	31 868.4	8.6	22	0.38
Queensland	322 940.9	Jun 09	328 752.2	5 811.3	1.8	20	0.09
South Australia	107 510.3	Aug 09	112 297.5	4 787.1	4.5	18	0.24
Western Australia	166 387.8	Oct 09	174 275.9	7 888.1	4.7	16	0.29
Tasmania	31 172.1	Oct 09	31 173.2	1.0	0.0	16	0.00
Northern Territory	17 129.3	Aug 08	18 766.9	1 637.7	9.6	30	0.32

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

The Northern Territory experienced a low-point in aggregate monthly hours worked relatively early, 17.1 million hours in August 2008, but since then increased strongly to 18.8 million hours (a 9.6% increase). Victoria also showed strong percentage increase in aggregate monthly hours worked of 8.6% (from 370.4 million hours in April 2009 to 402.2 million hours in February 2011).

Other states have not bounced back to such an extent - showing slower growth. For example, Tasmania's aggregate monthly hours worked varied from 31.2 million hours in October 2009 to a peak of 31.5 million hours in September 2010, but have since fallen to 31.2 million hours in February 2011.

Despite the strong growth in its aggregate monthly hours worked over the past 32 years, Queensland recorded a quite modest average monthly growth of 0.09% (from 322.9 million hours in June 2009 to 328.8 million hours in February 2011, an increase of 1.8%).

The Australian Capital Territory did not experience a period of negative growth between mid-2008 and mid-2009, however sample size in the territory is small and leads to higher variability than that exhibited in other states or territories.

## CONCLUSION

Aggregate monthly hours worked estimates provide a valuable measure of the volume of work being carried out in the Australian labour market. Disaggregation by state and territory allows for a comparison between states and territories, to see differences in relative growth rates and examine how different states and territories respond to economic downturns. This article has presented some descriptive analysis of aggregate monthly hours worked by states and territories and highlighted the possibility and potential for more detailed analysis of these series to be undertaken by users.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on the estimates, analysis or methodology in this article, please contact Felicity Splatt on (02) 6252 7031, or email [Felicity.Splatt@abs.gov.au](mailto:Felicity.Splatt@abs.gov.au).

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or queries regarding labour related statistics, contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Published information is available free of charge on the ABS website. Where data are not available on our website at the level of detail you require, the ABS can provide you with customised data to meet your specific requirements. To discuss options, please contact Contact Client Services Section in Canberra for an obligation free quote on (02) 6252 7400 or email <information.consultancy@abs.gov.au>.

All key labour statistical releases and publications can be found at the Labour Releases section of the Labour Topics @ a Glance page. For help finding and accessing ABS products and services contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

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## About the ABS labour statistics program

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### About the ABS labour statistics program

#### Labour Market National Statistics Centre

The Labour Market National Statistics Centre is responsible for:

- promoting the effective use of labour market statistics;
- influencing the development of national and international frameworks, and assisting with their implementation; and
- improving the relevance and reliability of labour market statistics produced by the ABS.

#### *Labour Market Dynamics Team*

The Labour Market Dynamics team specialises in statistics that inform on transitions within the labour market, particularly into and out of employment. The team has a focus on understanding the nature of these transitions and the people who are affected by them. If you have any questions relating to transitions, unemployment and underemployment, underutilisation, job search experience and job vacancies, retirement, labour force participation or persons not in the labour force, please contact Joanne Baker (team leader) on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au> .

#### *Wages and Workplace Relations Team*

The Wages and Workplace Relations team specialises in statistics relating to the nature of employment, such as wages and conditions of employment, employment arrangements, working time arrangements, leave entitlements, and workplace relations (bargaining, trade union membership). If you have any questions in regards to earnings measures and sources (including gender wage issues), independent contracting and other forms of employment, casual employment or methods of setting pay, please contact Alexa Olczyk (team leader) on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

#### Labour Employer Surveys Business Statistics Centre

The Labour Employer Surveys Business Statistics Centre is based in Perth and is responsible for a suite of national surveys which provide information about the structure and performance of the Australian labour market. Data are collected and produced in relation to average weekly earnings, job vacancies, industrial disputes, and employee earnings and hours. For more information about these surveys, please contact Antoinette Beckwith (Director) on (08) 9360 5187 or email <antoinette.beckwith@abs.gov.au>.

#### Labour Force and Supplementary Surveys Household Survey Centre

The Labour Force and Supplementary Surveys Household Survey Centre is responsible for the management of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) which provides extensive information covering Australian labour supply and demand, and workplace relations. The MPS includes the Labour Force Survey, Labour Supplementary Surveys (LFSS) and the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The Labour Force Survey provides monthly estimates of the number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate. The LFSS and MPHS collect information on a range of labour topics including forms of employment, job search experience, labour mobility, locations of work, working time arrangements, persons not in the labour force, retirement, and work-related injuries. For more information about these surveys, please call (02) 6252 6525 or email <labourforce@abs.gov.au>.

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## Introduction to Labour Statistics training course

## Introduction to Labour Statistics training course



Introduction to Labour Statistics is a one-day training course run in partnership between the National Statistical Training Institute and the Labour Market Statistics National Statistics Centre.

The training course suits people with or without a related academic background, providing an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It also explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of data available.

The course contents includes:

- Overview of ABS labour collections
- Labour supply and labour demand
- Measures of underutilised labour
- Labour market dynamics
- Describing employment conditions
- Information about population groups (including regions and Indigenous persons)
- Earning and labour costs
- Industrial relations
- Guide to ABS data sources (including publications, spreadsheets, datacubes, standard errors, original/trend and seasonally adjusted series)

The course outcomes:

- Understanding of key labour concepts and issues
- Awareness of available ABS labour-related data and products.

Introduction to Labour Statistics training courses are generally held in each state capital each year, with courses currently scheduled in most state capitals for 2011.

For more details about this and other statistical training, or to register interest in a course, please refer to the ABS Training page or contact Kathy Buck on (02) 6252 5981 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

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## Related publications

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	cat. no.	Frequency
<b>Labour Force Survey</b>		
Labour Force, Australia	6202.0	Monthly
Labour Force, Australia - Electronic Delivery	6291.0.55.001	Monthly
Labour Force, Australia	6291.0.55.003	Quarterly
<b>Labour force supplementary surveys</b>		
Childhood Education and Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Triennial
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual
Retrenchment & Redundancy, Australia(a)	6266.0	Discontinued
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual
Working Time Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Triennial
<b>Multi purpose household surveys</b>		
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia(b)	6238.0	Biennial
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Four-yearly
<b>Other labour surveys</b>		
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	6302.0	Quarterly
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia(c)	6248.0.55.002	Annual
Employee Earnings & Hours, Australia	6306.0	Biennial
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices, Australia	6362.0	Irregular
Employment Arrangements, Retirement & Superannuation, Australia	6361.0	Irregular
Industrial Disputes, Australia	6321.0.55.001	Quarterly
Job Vacancies, Australia	6354.0	Quarterly
Labour Costs, Australia	6348.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6287.0	Annual
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	6224.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Price Index, Australia	6345.0	Quarterly
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia(c)	6248.0.55.001	Discontinued
<b>Information papers and other reference material</b>		

Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6290.0.55.001	Irregular
Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular
Changes to ABS Measures of Employee Remuneration	6313.0	Irregular
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular
Estimating Average Annual Hours Worked	1352.0.55.077	Irregular
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular
Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6224.0.55.002	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube	6298.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide	6103.0	Irregular
Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6351.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0.55.001	Irregular
Labour Statistics in Brief, Australia	6104.0	Annual
Labour Statistics News (d)	6106.0	Discontinued
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular
Year Book, Australia	1301.0	Biennial
<b>Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)</b>		
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, CURF, 1994-1997	6286.0.30.001	Discontinued
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-1997: Expanded CURF	6286.0.55.001	Irregular
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns: Expanded CURF, Technical Paper	6286.0.55.002	Irregular
Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Australia	4402.0.55.001	Irregular
Childhood Education and Care, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	4402.0.55.002	Irregular
Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6306.0.55.002	Irregular
Microdata: Forms of Employment, Basic CURF, Australia	6359.0.30.001	Irregular
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia	6202.0.30.001	Biennial
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Basic CURF, Technical Paper	6202.0.30.002	Biennial
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF	6202.0.30.004	Biennial
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6202.0.30.005	Biennial
Microdata: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Expanded CURF, Australia	6361.0.55.001	Irregular
Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia	6306.0.55.001	Irregular
Technical manual: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia	6278.0.55.001	Irregular
Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF, Australia	6278.0.55.002	Irregular
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.003	Irregular
Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Australia	6278.0.55.004	Irregular
Microdata: Survey of Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia, May 2009	6227.0.30.001	Biennial
Survey of Income and Housing - CURF, Technical Manual	6541.0	Irregular
Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08	6541.0.30.001	Irregular
<b>Other publications</b>		
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Quarterly
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual
Business Indicators, Australia	5676.0	Quarterly
Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Characteristics, Australia	2017.0	Irregular
Education & Training Indicators, Australia	4230.0	Irregular
General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia	4159.0	Irregular
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income, Australia	6537.0	Irregular
Household Income & Income Distribution, Australia	6523.0	Biennial
Measures of Australia's Progress	1370.0	Irregular
Regional Wage & Salary Earner Statistics, Australia	5673.0.55.001	Irregular
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics, Australia	6360.0	Irregular
Voluntary Work, Australia	4441.0	Irregular

- Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey until 1997, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.
- Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey in 2000, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.
- The quarterly survey of Employment and Earnings - Public Sector has been replaced with an annual survey, commencing with the 2007-08 reference year. As a result, the June quarter 2007 was the final issue of Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001). Data from the annual survey are released in Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002).
- Content now contained within Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).
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## Data Sources for Tables

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### DATA SOURCES

Earlier editions of this publication contained tables which drew together a range of labour statistics from a number of ABS sources and some international comparisons from the International Labour Organisation. This publication no longer contains detailed tables that can be found in other publications.

The table below has been designed to assist you in obtaining this information from the original source.

- No.** and **Table Description** correspond to the position of the table in the October 2010 edition of Australian Labour Market Statistics.
- Data Source** indicates the most accessible source(s) of data, as time-series spreadsheets or datacubes.

A wide range of ABS labour related publications and data is freely available on the ABS website. The Related Publications tab of this publication contains links to the latest releases of many ABS labour related publications.

To find a labour market related publication, spreadsheet or datacube on the ABS website, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Statistics - Catalogue Number - 6. Labour Statistics and Prices]. All products can be accessed by catalogue number and subject, e.g. to find the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Select '6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia' and from the

Summary tab select the Details tab.

All ABS statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

For more information, contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

No.	Table Description	Data Source
1.1	Labour Force status by Sex: trend series	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)
		6202.0 spreadsheet table 1
1.2	Age by social marital status: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM8
1.3	States and territories, and capital cities: Original	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2
1.4	Educational attendance (aged 15-24): Original	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a
1.5	Labour Force Status by Country of Birth: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6
	Labour Force Status by Year of arrival: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4
1.6	Relationship in household: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2
1.7	All families: family type by labour force status: Original	<b>6105.0 spreadsheet table 1</b>
1.8	International Comparisons	International Labour Organisation, LABORSTA database
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2.2	Industry division and subdivision: Original	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 6
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E05
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E06
2.3	Occupation major group and sub-major group: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E08
2.4	Industry and occupation by full-time/part-time status: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 04
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 05
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		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 07
2.5	Industry and occupation by status in employment: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E05
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E06
	Occupation by status in employment: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E08
	Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E08
2.6	Actual hours worked: industry and occupation: Original	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12
	Average weekly hours worked by persons at work	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12
	Aggregate weekly hours worked	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
2.7	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9
2.8	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9
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2.9	Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2
2.10	Future employment expectations by job tenure	<b>6105.0 spreadsheet table 2</b>
2.11	Public sector employees: states and territories	Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002)
2.12	Public sector employees: industry	Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002)
3.1	Long-term unemployed persons: trend	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2
3.2	Long-term unemployed persons: trend	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 14B
3.3	Reason for unemployment by industry and occupation of last job	<b>6105.0 spreadsheet table 3</b>
	Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by occupation	<b>6105.0 spreadsheet table 3</b>
4.1	Labour underutilisation: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 21
	Labour Force: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 1
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4.3	Labour underutilisation by states and territories: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 22
	Unemployment Rate: trend - New South Wales	6202.0 spreadsheet table 4
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4.4	Labour underutilisation by states and territories: seasonally adjusted	6202.0 spreadsheet table 22
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	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Northern Territory	<b>Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate not published</b>
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Australian Capital Territory	<b>Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate not published</b>
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 2
4.5	Labour underutilisation by age: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 21
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	Unemployment Rate 15-24: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet
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4.7	Persons not in the labour force	6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1
5.1	Wage price index	Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)
	Wage price index: trend data	6345.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Wage price index: Australia, state and territories	6345.0 spreadsheet table 2b
	Wage price index: industry	6345.0 spreadsheet table 5b
5.2	Average weekly earnings: trend	Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)
	Australia	6302.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Private Sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 4
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5.3	Compensation of employees and related measures: trend	Australian National Accounts: National income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)
	Compensation of employees for household income account	5206.0 spreadsheet table 35
	GDP per hour worked	5206.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Average earnings (National accounts basis - nominal)	5206.0 spreadsheet table 20
6.1	Industrial disputes: working days lost	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)
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	Industrial disputes: working days lost; industry	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2a
6.2	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)
	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees; States and territories	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3b
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	Job vacancies: Australia, states and territories	6354.0 spreadsheet table 1
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## Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories (Feature Article)

### FEATURE ARTICLE: AGGREGATE MONTHLY HOURS WORKED: STATES AND TERRITORIES

#### INTRODUCTION

Aggregate monthly hours worked estimates measure the total number of hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. They can be aggregated across time to produce quarterly and annual estimates. Seasonally adjusted and trend measures of hours worked are provided that allow direct comparison of hours worked across time. For more information, see **Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey** (cat. no 6290.0.55.001).

Aggregate monthly hours worked estimates were first released in August 2009, full- and part-time series were released in February 2010 and estimates by broad industry groups were released in March 2010. These series are available as both seasonally adjusted and trend estimates (for the period July 1978 onwards).

From **Labour Force, Australia, January 2011** (cat. no. 6202.0) the ABS introduced monthly measures of aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory as seasonally adjusted and trend estimates.

The article "**Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked by State and Territory**", in **Labour Force, Australia, November 2010** (cat. no. 6202.0) introduced the new synthetic measures of aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory to complement the existing state and territory information on employment and unemployment. The article detailed the methodology behind the production of the state and territory series, and described the aggregate monthly hours worked by each state and territory in February 2011 as well as changes in the number of hours worked over the past month and the past year.



This article supplements that analysis by comparing the growth in aggregate monthly hours worked of each state and territory over the past 32 years, detailing how the share of Australia's total hours worked by states and territories has changed, and examining the aggregate monthly hours worked by each state and territory during the recent economic downturn.

## AGGREGATE MONTHLY HOURS WORKED: STATES AND TERRITORIES

### Change, and percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked

Table 1 shows the aggregate monthly hours worked in Australia for each state and territory, in July 1978 and February 2011, with the increase and percentage increase in aggregate monthly hours worked over this period.

**Table 1. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories, Trend - July 1978 to February 2011**

	July 1978 ('000)	February 2011 ('000)	Increase ('000)	Increase (percentage points)
New South Wales	321 164.7	503 700.3	182 535.5	56.8
Victoria	248 039.1	402 227.2	154 188.1	62.2
Queensland	134 459.9	328 752.2	194 292.3	144.5
South Australia	82 069.9	112 297.5	30 227.6	36.8
Western Australia	79 340.1	174 275.9	94 935.8	119.7
Tasmania	24 582.5	31 173.2	6 590.7	26.8
Northern Territory	6 941.5	18 766.9	11 825.4	170.4
Australian Capital Territory	13 898.3	28 543.4	14 645.1	105.4

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

New South Wales contributed the greatest number of aggregate monthly hours worked (321.2 million in July 1978, and 503.7 million in February 2011). The greatest increase in aggregate monthly hours worked occurred in Queensland (an increase of 194.3 million hours, from 134.5 million hours in July 1978 to 328.8 million hours in February 2011).

Aggregate monthly hours worked can be indexed to compare the growth in aggregate monthly hours worked by states and territories over time - measuring the percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked in each state and territory since the reference period (taken to be the start of the series in July 1978).

The Northern Territory had the greatest percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked over this period (170%), followed by Queensland (145%) and Western Australia (120%), while South Australia (37%) and Tasmania (27%) experienced the smallest growth in aggregate monthly hours worked.

### Share of Australia's aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory

The share of aggregate monthly hours worked that each state or territory contributes to Australia's total hours worked can be calculated over time and used to examine whether this has increased or decreased between July 1978 and February 2011.

Table 2 shows the state and territory percentage shares of Australia's aggregate monthly hours worked in July 1978 and February 2011, ranked by the percentage point change over this period.

**Table 2. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Territories, Trend - July 1978 to February 2011**

	July 1978 (%)	February 2011 (%)	change (%)
Queensland	14.8	20.6	5.8
Western Australia	8.7	10.9	2.2
Northern Territory	0.8	1.2	0.4
Australian Capital Territory	1.5	1.8	0.3
Tasmania	2.7	1.9	-0.8
South Australia	9.0	7.0	-2.0
Victoria	27.2	25.1	-2.1
New South Wales	35.3	31.5	-3.8

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

The percentage share (of the Australian total) of aggregate monthly hours worked by Queensland, Western Australia, and the Territories increased, while that of Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales decreased.

Queensland experienced the greatest percentage point increase (5.8 percentage points from 14.8% in July 1978 to 20.6% in February 2011) and New South Wales the greatest percentage point decrease (3.8 percentage points from 35.3% in July 1978 to 31.5% in February 2011).

Changes in the percentage share of Australia's total aggregate monthly hours worked across the states are strongly correlated with employed persons in those states: Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory recording the strongest increases in both of these measures. Between July 1978 to February 2011, the Northern Territory's total employed persons increased 173% (from 45,200 to 123,400), Queensland's total employed persons increased 167% (from 873,900 to 2,330,000), and Western Australia's total employed persons increased 132% (from 527,400 to 1,220,800).

In terms of the percentage share of the Australian total, only two states changed their ranking over this period, with Western Australia having a greater percentage share than South Australia from the early 1980s. South Australia began with a 9.0% share of the Australian total in 1978, which decreased to 7.0% in February 2011, while Western Australia's share grew from 8.7% to 10.9% over this period.

## THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

The recent economic downturn resulted in an increased focus on Australia's labour market and in particular on changes in unemployment,

employment and the relationship to hours worked. Economic downturns are characterised by an overall decrease in aggregate monthly hours worked but the experiences of individual states and territories during the periods of slowdown and recovery can be quite different. The relative resilience of each state and territory to the most recent (2008-09) economic downturn is analysed below.

### During the recent economic downturn

The states and territories were affected by the global financial crisis, showing a decrease in aggregate monthly hours worked during the time period between approximately mid-2008 and mid-2009. Examining the period of negative growth in aggregate monthly hours worked can provide one measure of the duration of the economic downturn.

Table 3 shows the months, for each state, when negative month-on-month growth in aggregate monthly hours worked began, when it ended, and how long it lasted (duration in months).

In the territories, the growth movements were more complicated, with alternating periods of positive and negative month-on-month growth in aggregate monthly hours worked. Sample size in the territories is small and leads to higher volatility, therefore drawing conclusions around small and short periods of growth should be carried out with caution.

**Table 3. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States, Negative Growth, Trend - July 2008 to February 2011**

	start of period of negative growth	end of period of negative growth	duration (months)
New South Wales	June 2008	August 2009	15
Victoria	September 2008	April 2009	8
Queensland	October 2008	June 2009	9
South Australia	September 2008	August 2009	12
Western Australia	October 2008	October 2009	13
Tasmania	August 2008	October 2009	15

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Victoria experienced negative month-on-month growth for just eight months (from September 2008 until April 2009), while in Western Australia the duration was 13 months (from October 2008 to October 2009).

### Since the recent economic downturn

Labour market indicators such as employment, unemployment, participation and underemployment provide evidence of Australia's recovery from the global financial crisis. The increase in aggregate monthly hours worked in Australia since mid- to late-2009 supports this recovery, however, individual states and territories show different rates of growth.

Table 4 shows, for each state and territory, the low-point of aggregate monthly hours worked and when this occurred, as well as how this has increased in the period to February 2011 (measured by changes in the number, percentage and average monthly percentage change in aggregate monthly hours worked since the low-point).

**Table 4. Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked: States and Northern Territory, Trend - July 2008 to February 2011**

	low point since July 2008	month in which this occurred	in February 2011	increase since low point	increase since low point (%)	number of months since low point	average monthly growth rate since low point (%)
New South Wales	485 296.7	Aug 09	503 700.3	18 403.5	3.8	18	0.21
Victoria	370 358.8	Apr 09	402 227.2	31 868.4	8.6	22	0.38
Queensland	322 940.9	Jun 09	328 752.2	5 811.3	1.8	20	0.09
South Australia	107 510.3	Aug 09	112 297.5	4 787.1	4.5	18	0.24
Western Australia	166 387.8	Oct 09	174 275.9	7 888.1	4.7	16	0.29
Tasmania	31 172.1	Oct 09	31 173.2	1.0	0.0	16	0.00
Northern Territory	17 129.3	Aug 08	18 766.9	1 637.7	9.6	30	0.32

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

The Northern Territory experienced a low-point in aggregate monthly hours worked relatively early, 17.1 million hours in August 2008, but since then increased strongly to 18.8 million hours (a 9.6% increase). Victoria also showed strong percentage increase in aggregate monthly hours worked of 8.6% (from 370.4 million hours in April 2009 to 402.2 million hours in February 2011).

Other states have not bounced back to such an extent - showing slower growth. For example, Tasmania's aggregate monthly hours worked varied from 31.2 million hours in October 2009 to a peak of 31.5 million hours in September 2010, but have since fallen to 31.2 million hours in February 2011.

Despite the strong growth in its aggregate monthly hours worked over the past 32 years, Queensland recorded a quite modest average monthly growth of 0.09% (from 322.9 million hours in June 2009 to 328.8 million hours in February 2011, an increase of 1.8%).

The Australian Capital Territory did not experience a period of negative growth between mid-2008 and mid-2009, however sample size in the territory is small and leads to higher variability than that exhibited in other states or territories.

### CONCLUSION

Aggregate monthly hours worked estimates provide a valuable measure of the volume of work being carried out in the Australian labour market. Disaggregation by state and territory allows for a comparison between states and territories, to see differences in relative growth rates and examine how different states and territories respond to economic downturns. This article has presented some descriptive analysis of aggregate monthly hours worked by states and territories and highlighted the possibility and potential for more detailed analysis of these

series to be undertaken by users.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on the estimates, analysis or methodology in this article, please contact Felicity Splatt on (02) 6252 7031, or email [Felicity.Splatt@abs.gov.au](mailto:Felicity.Splatt@abs.gov.au).

# Explanatory Notes

## Explanatory Notes

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### INTRODUCTION

**1** [Australian Labour Market Statistics](#) provides information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program, highlighting new and upcoming releases of ABS labour data or changes to these series. It presents a broad level summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and provides resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

**2** The electronic product takes advantage of website capabilities and is a little different from the downloadable (.pdf) version.

**3** In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains key labour market statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Labour Price Index, Job Vacancies, and Industrial Disputes.

**4** This publication includes a range of feature articles which are intended to assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program.

#### LABOUR STATISTICS CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

**5** The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), which is available on the ABS website at <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Topics @ a Glance > People > Labour > [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#)].

**6** For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

#### LABOUR TOPICS @ A GLANCE

**7** The Labour Topics @ a Glance page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS website. The page contains hyperlinks to [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001); information about labour related surveys; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys. The Labour Topics @ a Glance page can be accessed at <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Topics @ a Glance > People > Labour].

#### ORIGINAL AND TREND ESTIMATES

**8** Series in this publication include **original** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the trend series are subject to revision.

**9** It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements);
- short-term irregular changes;
- regular seasonal influences;
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns; and
- systematic holiday effects.

**10** Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

**11** Trend estimates are produced by using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

**12** Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

13 Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force, see [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0);
- for labour price index, see [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0); and
- for average weekly earnings, see [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0).

14 The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in [Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends](#) (cat. no. 1349.0).

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

15 Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error - errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population; and
- non-sampling error - errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

16 For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in [Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005](#) (cat. no. 6298.0). To assist users, a spreadsheet incorporating the revised standard error models using composite estimation is available from [Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, Oct 2009](#) (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

## ROUNDING

17 Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

### Description of the survey

18 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides extensive and timely information on the labour market activity of the usually resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 and over. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

### Monthly Population Survey

19 The Monthly Population Survey (MPS) is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and list samples of discrete Indigenous communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.45% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

### Labour Force Survey

20 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been conducted since 1960, first as a quarterly collection and then monthly from February 1978. The content of the survey has remained broadly the same since its introduction, but is regularly updated to ensure that it is the most appropriate for the provision of accurate labour force statistics.

21 The LFS is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001),

### Supplementary surveys

22 A supplementary topic was included with the Labour Force Survey for the first time in November 1961, and this concept has been gradually extended so that now, a majority of the months in each year include supplementary questions on one or more topics. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately.

23 The survey methodology does not differ greatly among the supplementary surveys, and in many aspects is the same as the LFS methodology. A list of topics covered in recent years is available from [Labour Market Statistics](#) (cat. no. 6105.0) > Contents > Find Out More > Related Publications. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

### Multi Purpose Household Survey

24 The Multi Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) was introduced in 2004-05. This survey vehicle is designed to provide statistics annually for a number of small, self contained topics, including a number of labour related topics. Data for MPHS topics are collected each month over a financial year. A list of topics covered in recent years is available from [Labour Market Statistics](#) (cat. no. 6105.0) > Contents > Find Out More > Related Publications. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## Reference period

25 Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

## Notes on data

26 From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996-97.

27 In February 2004 the definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week, with consequent revisions to data from April 2001 to January 2004. For further details, see [Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2003](#) (cat. no. 6292.0).

28 In May 2007, an improved method of estimation, known as composite estimation, was introduced into the Labour Force Survey. In introducing this change the ABS revised unit record data from April 2001 to April 2007 based on the new estimation method. While estimates for periods prior to April 2001 are unrevised and were compiled using a different estimation method, no trend break was identified in the employed persons series. Also, no change was identified in the trend breaks in the unemployed persons and unemployment rate series which arose with the introduction of a redesigned survey form in April 2001. For further details, see [Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 6292.0).

## Population benchmarks

29 Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are projections of the most recently released quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. For information on the methodology used to produce the ERP see [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0).

30 The ERP series are revised twice-yearly in the March and September quarter issues of [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0) to incorporate more up to date information available for the population components. For further details, see the article "Labour Force Survey Population Benchmarks" in [Labour Force, Australia, September 2010](#) (cat. no. 6202.0).

## Estimation method

31 The estimation method used in the Labour Force Survey is Composite Estimation, which was introduced in May 2007. Composite Estimation combines data collected in the previous six months with current month's data to produce the current month's estimates, thereby exploiting the high correlation between overlapping samples across months in the Labour Force Survey. The Composite Estimator combines the previous and current months' data by applying different factors according to length of time in the survey. After these factors are applied, the seven months of data are weighted to align with current month population benchmarks. For details see [Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007](#) (cat. no. 6292.0).

## Families series

32 Family relationship is not determined for all households and persons in scope of the LFS. This is due to a number of factors related to the scope and coverage of the LFS, as well as difficulties in determining family structure and characteristics. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions); and
- members of households where any of the usual residents aged 15 years and over are:
  - Non-Australian diplomats, non-Australian diplomatic staff or non-Australian members of their household;
  - Short term overseas visitors, whose usual residence is outside of Australia and who are staying in Australia for less than 12 months; or
  - Members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia or their dependants.

33 From October 2008, the method of producing family estimates from the LFS included: an expanded scope to include households containing permanent members of the Australian defence forces; a wider range of families in the LFS sample contributing to the family estimates; and improving the weighting method by utilising independent population benchmarks (of persons and households), ensuring the estimates more closely reflected the Australian population. See [Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey](#) (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

## Further information and data on the LFS

34 LFS estimates are published monthly in [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0). A series of time series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under cat. no. 6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, one week later, under cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 for monthly data, or cat. no. 6291.0.55.003 for quarterly data. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS website at <https://www.abs.gov.au>. For details on the data available in the Labour Force standard products, see [Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide](#) (cat. no. 6103.0). Additional data are available on request.

35 For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to [Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products](#) (cat. no. 6297.0), [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), or contact Labour Market Statistics on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

## WAGE PRICE INDEX DATA

## Description of the survey

36 The Labour Price Index (LPI) measures change in the price of labour in the Australian labour market, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed, i.e. it is unaffected by changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g. work performance). In the LPI, index numbers are compiled for a range of wage and non-wage costs. Information about the wage price indexes has been released for each quarter since September 1997.

## Reference period

37 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

## Further information

38 For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Price Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Labour Price Index, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6345.0), [Labour Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6351.0.55.001), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website, or contact the Manager, Labour Price Index on Perth (08) 9360 5151.

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DATA

### Description of the survey

39 The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 5,500 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings of employee jobs in Australia.

40 Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

### Reference period

41 The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

### Further information

42 For further information about average weekly earnings statistics and the concepts and methodology used, refer to [Average Weekly Earnings, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6302.0), [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), or contact the Manager, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings on Perth (08) 9360 5311.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES DATA

### Description of the survey

43 The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

44 The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

45 Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

### Reference period

46 The collection reference period is the calendar quarter.

### Further information

47 For further information about industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to the electronic publication [Industrial Disputes, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001), [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), or contact the Manager, Industrial Disputes on Perth (08) 9360 5184.

## JOB VACANCIES DATA

### Description of the survey

48 The current Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983, with the exception of between August 2008 and August 2009 when the survey was temporarily suspended. It is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 5,000 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia.

## Reference date

**49** The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

## Further information

**50** For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to **Job Vacancies, Australia** (cat. no. 6354.0), **Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), **the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website, or contact the Manager, Job Vacancies Survey on Perth** (08) 9360 5373.

# Glossary

## GLOSSARY

### Actual hours worked

The hours actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

### Adult employees

**Average Weekly Earnings.** Adult employees are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

### Aggregate monthly hours worked

Aggregate monthly hours worked measures the total number of actual hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. It differs from the actual hours worked estimates (and the usual hours worked estimates) since these refer only to the hours worked in the reference week.

Actual and usual hours worked cannot be aggregated across time to produce either quarterly or annual estimates as they relate to only a single week in the month. In contrast, aggregate monthly hours worked estimates are a true monthly measure, and may be aggregated across time to produce both quarterly and annual estimates.

### Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15-24 years who were enrolled full-time at secondary school, high school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

### Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees.

### Average weekly hours worked

The average total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

### Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

### Couple families

A couple family exists if any two people, both of whom must be 15 years of age or over, have formed a couple relationship. This is defined as two people usually residing in the same household who share a social, economic and emotional bond usually associated with marriage and who consider their relationship to be a marriage or marriage-like union. It is identified by the characterisation of the relationship by a respondent using terms such as 'husband', 'wife', 'spouse', 'de facto', 'partner' etc.

### Dependants

All family members under 15 years, and all children aged 15-24 years attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

### Discouraged jobseekers

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young by employers;
- considered to be too old by employers;
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background;

- no jobs in their locality or line of work;
- no jobs available at all; or
- no jobs in suitable hours.

### **Duration of unemployment**

Duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Prior to April 2001, duration of unemployment was defined in the Labour Force Survey as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

### **Employed**

Employed persons include all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or locked out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

### **Employed full-time**

See **full-time employed**.

### **Employed part-time**

See **part-time employed**.

### **Employee**

**Labour Force Survey and other household surveys.** A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

**Employer surveys.** Employees are wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period.

### **Employee job**

**Wage Price Index(WPI).** A job for which the occupant receives remuneration in wages, salary, payment in kind, or piece rates. All employee jobs in all employing organisations are in scope of the WPI, except the following:

- those excluded from all ABS labour employer surveys
- 'non-maintainable' jobs (i.e. jobs that are expected to be occupied for fewer than six months of a year)
- jobs for which wages and salaries are not determined by the Australian labour market (e.g. most employees of Community Development Employment Programs, jobs where the remuneration is set in a foreign country).

### **Employer**

**Labour Force Survey and other household surveys.** A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

**Employer surveys.** A business with one or more employees.

### **Employment to population ratio**

For any group, the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

### **Extended labour force underutilisation rate**

The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of marginally attached to the labour force:

- persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks; and
- discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by (i) and (ii).

For more information, see datacube 'Table 5. Extended Labour Force Underutilisation Rate' and the Technical Report 'Extended Labour Force Underutilisation Rate' in the July 2009 issue of this publication.



## Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

## Former workers

Unemployed persons who have previously worked for two weeks or more but not in the last two years.

## Full-time educational attendance

Persons aged 15-19 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15-24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

## Full-time employed

**Household surveys.** Persons employed full-time are those employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

## Full-time employees

**Employer surveys.** Full-time employees are permanent, fixed term and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

## Household

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but no meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

## Industrial dispute

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

## Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006** (cat. no. 1292.0). The industry assigned to an employed person is the industry of the organisation in which the person's main job is located. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry of their most recent job.

## Job vacancy

A job vacancy is an employee job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are vacancies:

- for jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled that same day;
- for jobs of less than one day's duration;
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees;
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s);
- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date;
- for work to be carried out by contractors;
- for which no recruitment action has been taken;
- where a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty;
- to be filled by staff from contract labour agencies; and
- for jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation.

## Labour force

The labour force is the labour supply available for the production of economic goods and services in a given period, and is the most widely used measure of the economically active population. Persons in the labour force are classified as either employed or unemployed according to their activities during the reference period by using a specific set of priority rules.

## Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

## Labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force.

## Long-term unemployed

Persons unemployed for 12 months or more. See **duration of unemployment** for details of the calculation of duration of unemployment.

### **Long-term unemployment rate**

The number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Marginal attachment to the labour force**

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work, and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care were available.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

### **Not determined**

Families estimates from the Labour Force Survey include families where one or more adult members have an unknown labour force status. This 'not determined' category comprises families where one or both spouses (or lone parent or family reference persons) did not fully complete the questionnaire, were away from their usual residence for six weeks or more, or were permanent members of the Australian defence forces (out of scope for the Labour Force Survey).

### **Not in the labour force**

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

### **Occupation**

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their main tasks to be grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to the **ANZSCO Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1** (cat. no. 1220.0). The occupation assigned to an employed person relates to the person's main job. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the occupation of their most recent job.

### **One-parent family**

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.

### **Original series**

Estimates produced directly from the survey data, before seasonal adjustment or trend estimation take place.

### **Other family**

Related individuals residing in the same household who do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as 'other family'.

### **Own-account worker**

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire no employees.

### **Owner managers of incorporated enterprises**

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'. Technically they are employees, however, they are similar in characteristics to owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

### **Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises**

People who work in their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. This includes those engaged independently in a profession or trade. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account workers if they do not.

### **Participation rate**

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that group, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

### **Part-time employed**

**Household surveys.** Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

### **Status in employment**

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

### **Total earnings**

See **weekly total earnings**.

### **Total hourly rates of pay index excluding bonuses**

**Wage Price Index.** This index measures quarterly change in a weighted combination of ordinary time and overtime hourly rates of pay. See **Labour Price Index, Australia** (cat. no. 6345.0) for more information.

### **Trend series**

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See Explanatory Notes for more detail.

### **Underemployed workers**

Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; and
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

### **Underemployment rate**

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Unemployed**

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

### **Unemployed looking for first full-time job**

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

### **Unemployed looking for first job**

Unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

### **Unemployed looking for full-time work**

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work, or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

### **Unemployed looking for part-time work**

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only, or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

### **Unemployment rate**

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

### **Unemployment to population ratio**

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

### **Usual hours worked**

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

### **Wage and salary earners**

See **employee**.

### **Weekly total earnings**

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

## Abbreviations

### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWE	average weekly earnings
EEH	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
ID	industrial disputes
ILO	International Labour Organization
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LPI	labour price index
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
qtr	quarter
RSE	relative standard error
WPI	wage price index

## Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Table 1 is updated on an annual basis and was last updated for June 2010.

Tables 2 - 4 are updated on a quarterly basis.

Tables 5 -7 are updated on an annual basis. All three were last updated in the July 2010 issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).